(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these cards are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) proposal has been received from Central Railway for implementation of a scheme of issuing smart card which will be valid for travel in suburban trains as well as Bombay Electric and State Transport (BEST) buses in Mumbai area. The proposal is at preliminary stage of examination.

Development of Nilgiri Mountain Railway

1934. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to invite private companies to develop certain stretches of the areas, owned by the Railways, surrounding the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, which is one of the oldest mountain railways in the country and was declared a world heritage site last year, for business ventures of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, the details of the project, including interest shown by various private companies as reported as the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no proposal on Railway to invite private companies to develop certain stretches of the area owned by the Railways surrounding the Nilgiri Mountain Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in North Frontier Railway

1935. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for slow progress of works on gauge conversion of rail line from Fakiragram to Dhubri and New Moinaguri to Jogighopa new rail line construction under New Bongaigaon to New Jalpaiguri sector of North Frontier Railway;

(b) the stipulated time, if any, for completion of works; and

(c) the present status of the works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. Fakiragram-Dhubri has been planned as last phase of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon Gauge Conversion project on which the progress is affected due to law and order problems. New Mainaguri-Jogighopa new line is affected by delay in land acquisition.

(b) Fakiragram-Dhubri gauge conversion during 2007-08 and target for New Mainaguri-Jogighopa has not been fixed.

(c) In Fakiragram-Dhubri, 1.36 out of 3.79 lac cubic metre earthwork, 3 out of 14 major bridges, 7 out of 27 minor bridges completed. On New Mainaguri-Jogighopa new line, 486.587 hectare land out of 998.8 hectare acquired. Earthwork & bridges taken up in New Mainaguri-New Coochbehar (93 Kms) and New Coochbehar-Golakganj section.

Anti-collision system

1936. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to implement anti-collision system and railway safety measures on top priority basis for collision prevention, derailment and washing away in floods, in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what effective measures are being taken/propose to be taken by the Railways in implementing anti-collision system and providing safety to passengers, loco crew and to traffic at level crossing gates; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Konkan Railway Corporation invented A.C.D. system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have formulated a "Corporate Safety Plan" for the period 2003—2013 which envisages a total investment